AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A vehicle brake assembly comprising:

a backing plate having a centrally located first aperture formed therein, said backing plate adapted to support a drum brake shoe assembly of a drum-in-hat parking and emergency brake; and

a drum-in-hat adapter having a centrally located second aperture and a plurality of smaller mounting apertures formed therein about said centrally located first aperture thereof, said adapter being formed as a one piece stamping and including an integral abutment member formed therewith during the stamping thereof.

2. (Original) The vehicle brake assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said backing plate includes at least one raised hollow projection and said adapter includes at least one raised solid projection which is adapted to be received into said at least one raised hollow projection and subjected to a metal forming operation to secure said backing plate to said adapter.

3. (Original) The vehicle brake assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said adapter functions as an axle flange and is adapted to be secured to a vehicle axle tube.

4. (Original) The vehicle brake assembly according to Claim 1 and further including an axle flange, said axle flange adapted to be secured to an axle tube which in turn is adapted to extend through the centrally located first and second apertures of said backing plate and said adapter, respectively.

5. (Original) The vehicle brake assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said adapter is stamp formed from carbon steel or a high strength low alloy material.

6. (Original) The vehicle brake assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said adapter has a generally uniform thickness of approximately 12.5 mm (approximately 0.5 inches).

7. (Original) The vehicle brake assembly according to Claim 1 wherein said adapter includes a pair of ears, each of said ears provided with a hole formed therein and adapted to receive a fastener for attaching a disc brake caliper assembly to said adapter.

8. (Original) A vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly having a disc service brake and a drum-in-hat parking and emergency brake, the vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly comprising:

a backing plate having a centrally located first aperture formed therein;

a drum brake shoe assembly of the drum-in-hat parking and emergency brake supported by said backing plate; and

a drum-in-hat adapter having a centrally located second aperture and a plurality of smaller mounting apertures formed therein about said centrally located first aperture thereof, said adapter being formed as a one piece stamping and including an integral abutment member formed therewith during the stamping thereof.

9. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 8 wherein said backing plate includes at least one raised hollow projection and said adapter includes at least one raised solid projection which is adapted to be received into said at least one raised hollow projection and subjected to a metal forming operation to secure said backing plate to said adapter.

10. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 8 wherein said adapter functions as an axle flange and is adapted to be secured to a vehicle axle tube.

11. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 8 and further including an axle flange, said axle flange adapted to be secured to an axle tube which in turn is adapted to extend through the centrally located first and second apertures of said backing plate and said adapter, respectively.

12. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 8 wherein said adapter is stamp formed from carbon steel or a high strength low alloy material.

13. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 8 wherein said adapter has a generally uniform thickness of approximately 12.5 mm (approximately 0.5 inches).

14. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 8 wherein said adapter includes a pair of ears, each of said ears provided with a hole formed therein and adapted to receive a fastener for attaching a disc brake caliper assembly to said adapter.

15. (Original) A drum-in-hat adapter adapted for use in a vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly comprising:

a drum-in-hat adapter having a centrally located aperture and a plurality of smaller mounting apertures formed therein about said centrally located aperture thereof;

wherein said adapter is formed as a one piece stamping and including an integral abutment member formed therewith during the stamping thereof.

16. (Original) The drum-in-hat adapter according to Claim 15 wherein said adapter includes at least one raised solid projection formed thereon.

17. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 15 wherein said adapter functions as an axle flange and is adapted to be secured to a vehicle axle tube.

18. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 15 wherein said adapter is stamp formed from carbon steel or a high strength low alloy material.

19. (Original) The vehicle drum-in-hat disc brake assembly according to Claim 15 wherein said adapter has a generally uniform thickness of approximately 12.5 mm (approximately 0.5 inches).